

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

September 19, 2002

Meeting held at:

City Administration Building
202 “C” Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Board
202 “C” Street, MS 9B
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jim Austin, Chair
Ginny Barnes, Vice Chair
Faith Bautista
Darlene Gould Davies
Kevin Faulconer
Norman Greene
Dan Mazzella (3:55 p.m. arrival)
Doug Perry
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds (2:11 p.m. arrival)
Robert Robinson

Members Absent

Bob Otilie

Staff Present

June Dudas
Mark Marney
Ted Medina
Ellen Oppenheim
Sally Pearson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Perry/Ms. Bautista

The Minutes of July 18, 2002 were unanimously approved by the Board.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Mary Coakley, representing La Jolla Youth, Inc., invited the Board members to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at La Jolla Elementary School Athletic Field on Friday, September 20, at 3:00 p.m. She praised and thanked Park and Recreation staff members Ted Medina, Sally Gollehon, Andy Guyer, Joey Jacoby, and Jose Delgado for doing an outstanding job on this project. Ms. Coakley also encouraged the Board members to attend the October 9, 2:00 p.m. meeting of the Land Use & Housing Meeting at which time the revised Telecommunications Facilities Policy will be heard.

COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS

_____None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

_____Mr. Austin requested a one hour training on the Brown Act. He suggested that it be done at a convenient time when all Board members can attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Oppenheim provided an overview of her first ninety days as Park & Recreation Director including her goals for the current fiscal year. Her main objective is to develop a high performing team within the department that is focused on creative and timely problem solving that can provide capable leadership to department staff to meet the goals and objectives of the Mayor and Council. Additional goals will be to work with and in support of the City Manager and the City Management Team, address the existing resource expectation and resource constraint imbalance, consider the recommendations of the Budget Workgroup, work to support needed culture changes that will enhance service effectiveness and to build a cooperative and coordinated teamwork approach to foster change and evolution within the department. Ms. Oppenheim regards staff as the greatest asset a department has thus a high priority will be to hire, train, and promote the best talent and continually provide the tools and training opportunities so that staff can do their jobs at an optimum level. She also explained the department reorganization and described how she feels this change will be a positive benefit to the Council Districts, city staff, and to the department. Ms. Oppenheim listened to comments and answered questions from the Board

Ms. Oppenheim also reported on the following:

- Governor Davis was in San Diego last week to sign the San Diego River Conservancy Bill which will provide \$12 million for the San Diego River project. Additionally, the Governor announced a \$6 million commitment for improvements in Balboa Park. Ms.

Oppenheim thanked the Mayor, Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe and Councilmember Toni Atkins for their effectiveness in getting this accomplished.

- Over the past few months, several very successful camps for children and adults with disabilities have taken place. Camp at the Bay and JAWS Camp was held July 16 - 19 and August 13 - 17 at North Crown Point Shores and at Southwestern College. This year's Wheelchair Over-the-Line tournament took place last weekend in Balboa Park with over 100 players participating.

- Torrey Pines Golf Course was named one of the top 100 public courses in the Country by Golf Magazine. It moved from the 60th slot two years ago to number 17 this year. The improved rating can be attributed to \$3.5 million in improvements made to the course last year which was made possible by the Torrey Pines Founders Circle. An estimated 175,000 rounds of golf will be played on the course this year.

- A variety of recreation sites were recognized on the web site BestOf.Com as being favorites for people who enjoy recreation and leisure activities. A letter of congratulations and an award certificate was mailed to each.

- This year's annual volunteer recognition event was held on Saturday, September 14 in Balboa Park with close to 300 volunteers and their guests in attendance. This year's theme was "A Day in the Park" and each volunteer was treated to brunch, a goodie basket, and free admission to several of the museums.

- A unique opportunity exists at Allied Gardens Park where a major turf restoration project was recently completed. In order to keep the turf in healthy condition year round, an Ordinance will be written that will set aside some specific "rest time" for the park, probably during the Spring. The Skunk Hollow Joint Use area is expected to be up and running by that time and activities can take place there while the park turf is being unused. At another time of the year, this area will also be "rested." In addition, the lower field at Lewis Middle School will also be put on a "rest" schedule when school is not in session. This is being done to keep all the fields in better condition for a longer period of time. If this proves successful, some additional locations may be identified in the future.

- Ms. June Dudas, Assistant to the Director, referenced the organizational chart distributed to each Board member and the packet of updated Board policies.

FRIENDS OF PARKS REPORT

On behalf of Mr. Walt Ladwig, Ms. June Dudas, Assistant to the Director, reported that the Friends' Matching Funds Program announcements have been mailed. They are seeking input and applications.

INFORMATION ITEMS

This item is being taken out of order at the request of Chairman Austin.

201. Skateboard Injury Statistics

Mr. Ted Medina, Community Parks I Division Deputy Director, reported that during the discussion of the Memorial Skateboard Park at the July 18, 2002 Board meeting, it was requested that injury statistics be provided and specifically about Robb Field Skateboard Park. Mr. Medina referenced the packet of materials distributed to each Board member that included data on injuries that have occurred since the park opened in the Spring of 2000. Forty-one accidents have been reported; 27 were head and arm accidents, 7 leg and ankle, 4 head, and 3 shoulder injuries. No claims or lawsuits have been filed to date. Mr. Medina also brought an example of the standard head gear and knee and elbow pads required by each participant to wear while using the park. Ms. Barnes toured the facility recently and had very positive comments about it and the staff in charge. Mr. Medina answered questions from the Board members.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

Adoption

101. Streamlining the Community Input Process for Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Mark Marney, Project Officer II with the Park Planning Division, explained that last year a Budget Workgroup was created consisting of Councilmembers Scott Peters, Toni Atkins, and Jim Madaffer, to review how the Park & Recreation Department conducts business and specifically to find a way to expedite park development projects by reducing and/or streamlining the number of community review meetings held. It was determined that the current process by which new parks are designed, developed and built is too slow and too expensive. Although community input is very valuable, it has evolved into an often time-consuming and staff intensive project that results in fewer dollars available for public park improvements. It was recommended that the revised process provide a balance of community review dependent on project scope, with the ultimate goal to expedite project time-lines and increase funds available for hard costs, with an offset reduction in soft costs. This process should also encourage private investment by decreasing uncertainty in costs related to the administration of park development. Over the past several months, Park & Recreation staff has sought community input, met with each of the community park-based committees, and invited local members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and American Institute of Architects to give their input and recommendations on how this could be accomplished. In general, the consensus

was that the current process is unnecessarily burdensome and needs improvement. A total of 11 recommendations were made. Staff recommends that the 6 items marked with a “yes” be incorporated into a City Council Policy for a community review process for Park and Recreation capital improvement projects.

Mr. Karsten Gjemre, former chair and member of a recreation council in North Park and past member of the Central Area Committee, is opposed to the proposed policy overall but in agreement with many aspects of it and complimented staff on their diligence. In his opinion, the policy focuses too much on costs with no documentation to back it up. He feels the emphasis should be on the community side of the discussion with enough flexibility that allows for good controls but not limited to a certain number of meetings.

Ms. Ann Swanson, a member of the Coastal Area Committee and Chair of the Sunset Cliffs Recreation Council, is opposed to the proposed policy as presented today, but agrees that a change is necessary. She feels that community input is a very valuable part of the democratic process and should not be discouraged or limited in any way.

Mr. Marney and Ms. Oppenheim answered questions and listened to comments from the Board members. Opinions and recommendations varied on the proposed policy with unanimous agreement that streamlining is needed. However, they all agreed that community input should not be minimized and that possibly by changing the notification process so that more people received information on meetings might help to resolve that issue. Overall, the Board members agreed to vote individually on each of the 11 recommendations as long as they had the opportunity to go back to their community groups for additional input on any modifications they might recommend prior to approving a final version of this policy. Ms. Oppenheim explained that the City Council’s direction was to get some specific recommendations today on how we can retain the bulk of the quality of the community input but shorten the time in which we obtain it, and present these recommendations to the Rules Committee in October 2002.

The Board members discussed each recommendation in detail. After voting on each item, it was agreed that the following items could move forward as part of the proposed policy: Items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 (all items to include the modifications discussed). Items 3 and 7 will be brought back for further discussion.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Puentes-Reynolds/Mr. Perry

Ms. Puentes-Reynolds moved to approve items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, with the modifications made by the Board, as part of the proposed streamlining policy, and to bring back items 3 and 7 for further discussion. Mr. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention by Mr. Robinson.

Due to the lateness of the meeting, committee reports were not heard. Please refer to the minutes that were mailed to each of you.

ADJOURNMENT

_____The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

_____The next scheduled meeting is: **Thursday, October 17, 2002**

City Administration Building
Council Committee Room
202 "C" Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Ellen Oppenheim
Staff Representative

EO/sp